(c) whether Government have prepared plan for production and marketing of CBM in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The preliminary studies and Research and Development (R&D) activities undertaken have indicated the presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) to (e) To harness the CBM potential in the country, as an alternate source of energy, the Government has approved the Policy for exploration and production of CBM (CBM Policy). Under this Policy, 5 blocks falling in the States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have been awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding for exploration activities. The CBM Policy provides that the awardee will have the freedom to market the gas depending upon the commercial viability of the project.

Transportation of LPG

†3753. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the average kilometers being allotted to every tanker for LPG transportation in Northern India and the average allotted to the tankers running in Sawai Madhopur plant;

(b) whether more kilometers are allotted to the lower-rating transporters; if so, what are the rules and whether tankers running in Sawai Madhopur are also rated low; and

(c) the persons responsible for the loss to IOC if higher-rating tankers are run more and lower rating tankers of Sawai Madhopur are run less in terms of kilometers?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) There is no system of allotment of fixed kilometers to any tank truck for LPG transportation in Northern India including at Sawai Madhopur bottling plant.

(b) and (c) The tank trucks (TTs) deployed at lower rate are given more kilometers. At present, TTs attached with Sawai Madhopur plant are working at basic transportation rate and are not considered as low rate TTs.

Bottling Plants in Rajasthan

†3754. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the Sawai Madhopur Bottling Plant alongwith the amount spent on its installation;

(b) whether it is being fully utilised, if not, the percentage of capacity being utilised and the steps being taken by Government for its complete utilisation;

(c) the names of the places in Rajasthan where new bottling Plants were started during the last three years;

(d) whether due to the security reasons the distance from Pak border was kept in view while selecting these places; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The rated capacity of Sawai Madhopur Bottling Plant is 44 Thousand Metric Ton Per Annum (TMTPA) and a total amount of Rs. 17.46 crore was spent on the construction of the plant.

(b) The capacity of the plant is being fully utilized.

(c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have commissioned

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.